(b) Against the target of covering 2,224 villages in the State during the year 2000-2001, 1,264 villages were provided with telecom facility. Out of remaining 7,894 uncovered villages in the State, 3,947 villages are planned to be covered by satellite terminals whereas remaining villages are planned to be covered by WLL technology and land-lines from the nearest exchanges. It is plan to cover all the remaining villages of Uttaranchal State by the end of the year 2002 subject to the availability of funds.

Receipt of Anthrax Letter

†460. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :(a) whether various State Governments of the country and many persons including many Ministers of Central and State Governments have received letters envelopes packets containing anthrax powder;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government to stop this tendency and what concrete steps have been taken against the culprits to check such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

(a) As far as the information available with the Minisry of Communiations is concerned, there is no case of the letter/envelope/packet containing anthrax powder received or delivered.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) So far there is no confirmed case of letters containing Anthrax. So the question of action against the guilty does not arise.

Sanchar Kranti

†461. SHRI RAJIV RAN JAN SINGH 'LALAN*:
SHRIKAPILSIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular telepone service has been started after declaration of the Sanchar Kranti in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of subscribers by the end of the September, 2001 in the country, who are using cellular telephone service; and

(c) the State-wise number of such subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF GOMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) With the liberalization of Telecom Service Sector, licences were granted to private Indian Companies for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in various Service Areas of the country. For the purpose of CMTS, there are Metro City and Telecom Circle Service Areas for which the licenses for providing the Service have been granted by the Government. As per the information provided by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), there are total 48,07,700 Mobile Phone subscribers in the country as on 30.9.2001. The details of subscribers, Service Area-wise, are given in the Statement.

Statement

Information regarding Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Subscribers in Metro cities and Telecom Circles

SI. No.	Name of Servece Area (Metro/Telecom Circles)	No. of subscribers as on 30.9.2001
I.	Delhi	7,62,216
2.	Mumbai	7,10,218
3.	Kolkata	2,04,242
4.	Chennai	1,98,905
5.	Andhra Pradesh	3,68,649
6.	Assam	21,707
7.	Bihar	88,270'
8.	Gujarat	3,62,154
9.	Haryana	72,637
10.	Himachal Pradesh	18,011
11.	Karnataka	2,95,261
12.	Kerala	3,20,3663
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1,37,836
14.	Maharashtra	3,71,287
15.	North East	3,103

SI. No.	Name of Servece Area (Metro/Telecom Circles)	No. of subscribers as on 30.9.2001
16.	Orissa	36,754
17.	Punjab	2,08,222
18.	Rajasthan	85,516
19.	Tamil Nadu	2,61,778
20.	UP(E)	1,06,807
21.	UP(W)	1,41,585
22.	West Bengal	28,974
	GRAND TOTAL:	48,07,700

Replacement of existing telephone technology in Villages

†462. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision during the last few years to replace the existing telephone technology in the villages in order to streamline functioning of telephones;

(b) if so, the number of villages required to be provided with the new technology;

(c) the number of villages already provided with this technology upto September 2001; and

(d) by when, the remaining villages are targeted to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) It has been decided to replace the faulty Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the country, working on MARR System, by new technology VPTs in a phased manner.

(b) In all about 2.11 lakh such VPTs are proposed to be replaced.

(c) Upto September 2001, no replacement has been done.

(d) These are proposed to be replaced in a phased manner over a period of two years *i.e.* by the year 2003 subject to availability of funds.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.